

From: Abrams, Mary
To: Powell, Jeffrey S CAPT OASN EI&E
CC: Vavra, Randy CAPT OASN (EI&E), OAGC; Cobb, Coralie H CIV NAVFAC SW, SWEV; Rice, Jacqueline D I&L, MCICOM; Scarborough, Jennifer (b) (6) Cecchini, Joseph D CIV OASN EI&E; Olmsted, Nicole M CIV NAVFAC PAC, EV2; Borja, Al (b) (6) Juola, Frans A CIV NAVFAC PAC, EV; Wenderoth, Stephen CIV CL, Counsel for CMC; (b) (6) Kieran-Vast, Angela CIV NAVFAC PAC, EV
Sent: 9/15/2017 9:43:27 PM
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: BO implementation discussion

Jeff -

Good to hear from you as always. I think there are several issues that make a call a good next step. Let me check in with my team and be sure who we might have available when. I can tell you that Darren, Jackie and I will be out of pocket most of next week due to some required training that we all have to take. So the following week might be best. I will look at times that are good for us that week and would be great if you all could do the same.

Hope you are doing well and are going to have a great weekend.

Mary

On Fri, Sep 15, 2017 at 10:13 AM, Powell, Jeffrey S CDR OASN EI&E (b) (6) wrote:

Hi Mary:

Hope you are doing well. I'm reaching out to you to request our teams, including counsel, get together for a phone conversation in the next week or so, to discuss the findings from our ongoing pre-construction surveys. We've completed 99% of the pre-construction surveys within the J-001B construction footprint at Finegayan and we've found 11,392 *Tuberobolabium guamense* orchids. In 2015/2016 we previously identified approximately 3,100 *Tuberobolabium guamense* orchids in that same footprint. The increase in orchids is not surprising because the surveys of the area were conducted ~2 years ago, and it was for this reason that we included the Conservation Measure for pre-construction surveys to ensure that we identify listed plant species present in the construction area and salvage individuals that cannot be avoided.

This raises some interesting questions for the orchids and the other threatened or endangered plant species, and also for future efforts as we have not conducted comprehensive surveys of all of the construction sites. It is possible that the number of threatened or endangered species within the project footprints will change over time. We built some of this into the BA, and it is noted in the BO that the number of the individual plant species was based on the "known" population, and the majority of the known population information on Guam is based on surveys conducted or funded by the DON on DoD administered lands. The BO also notes that "results are not comprehensive island-wide, thus the number of plants within the action area is considered a conservative value." The BO also specifically noted the potential increase in plant numbers of *T. guamense* for the Finegayan area noting "The proposed action would negatively impact the Finegayan population by reducing it by at least 70 percent (from 6,924 to 2,070 orchids) and by removing the largest known cluster of this orchid species in the wild. However, this reduced population is not expected to be more vulnerable to extirpation because nearly all remaining *T. guamense* orchids would be contained within the two Forest Enhancement Sites."

While the number of plants within the project footprint is subject to change, the amount of known plants remaining to support the survival and recovery of the species remains the same. In the case of *T. guamense* on Guam, at least 8,685 plants are known to exist outside the project footprint, and there will be sufficient habitat to support the remaining populations at levels that retain the potential for recovery of this species.

I know there have been recent calls/emails between our staffs working this issue. I thought we should all get on the phone in the next week or so to discuss.

V/r,
JSP

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